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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PACKARD

SUBJECT: Letter to Ambassador Johnson on "Fact Of"

To the right is a follow-up to the ExCom discussion on "fact of." I think that your signature is desirable in speaking for the ExCom. The SALT ratification question is expected to be reviewed by the NSAM 156 Committee beginning this month.

M.L.

John L. McLucas

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Letter to Ambassador Johnson on "Fact Of"

To the right at TAB B is a letter for Mr. Packard's signature. The letter follows up the ExCom discussion concerning "fact of" and states support for the NSAM 156 recommendation. Also mentioned is the protection of the "fact of" SIGINT collectors in the context of future assessments.

Care in developing a policy to cover SALT ratification is also mentioned in order to introduce a greater sense of urgency to the State Department.

RECOMMENDATION: At TAB A is a left hand memorandum transmitting the letter to Mr. Packard. Your signature is recommended.

HAROLD S. COYLE, SR.
Major, USAF

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Dear Alex:

The National Reconnaissance Program Executive Committee, in its meeting on September 30, discussed the issue of revealing the "fact of" satellite reconnaissance. The Committee strongly supports the recommendation made to the President by the NSAM 156 Committee to await review of the international reactions to NASA earth resources missions in testing the principle of overt satellite overflight.

The Executive Committee drew a further distinction between SIGINT and photographic satellite intelligence collection systems. It is felt strongly that SIGINT collection systems should be treated separately and probably held much more closely than photographic systems in any future discussions of revealing the "fact of" satellite reconnaissance.

Regarding the topic of SALT Ratification, I understand that this issue is currently under review by the NSAM 156 Committee. I personally urge careful development of a policy aimed at preventing inadvertent official release of the "fact of" satellite reconnaissance through discussions of national means of verification.

Sincerely,

Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson
Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

cc: Mr. Helms
Dr. David
Dr. McLucas

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